question is this; if any particular resolution comes first in the order of precedence when put to the ballot, that resolution must be taken up.

President.—A certain order has been formed when the resolutions were put to the ballot—1, 2, 3, etc. If one is not ready to be taken up, the second is taken up. The point of the objection is that one should come up first, and the President is not justified in removing one and taking up the second. The second point is that all the admitted resolutions must come before the Council. We cannot say that, for want of time, we put it off.

Mr. A B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Exactly.

President—We shall look into it. Now, to the discussion of the motions on the budget—the voting of demands for grants. Till 4 o'clock, this item of work will engage our attention. After 4, we will take up Mr. Acyhuta Menon's resolution.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

Motion No 1.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

To omit the allotment for the "Fishery Patrol staff.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir,

I rise to move the omission of the allotment for the Fishery Patrol staff, for which exact figures are not given in the Preliminary Edition of the Budget. (Page 16—Establishment of the Fishery Patrol Staff.) My object in moving this motion is only to bring to your notice, Sir, that by this control of the poor fishermen of Cochin, by means of taxation upon the fishing stakes—for which the humble speaker has been mainly responsible in the past as Fishery Investigation Officer of the State, and for which he must, therefore, plead guilty and merit the curses of the Vala population of Cochin—, and by making them come under the

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supervision of a class of people who have been rather merciless to them in the administration of the fishing stakes, Government is incurring much unnecessary expenditure. There are three classes of fishing stakes, first, second and third class, according to my report; and that has been adopted by the Government, and we have got well-known fishing sites throughout the length of the back-waters from Chellanam to Cranganur. Now, it may be said that fishing stakes will crop up anywhere and everywhere, if this patrol staff is not maintained. Sir, that cannot be, because the fishing stakes are definite and regular, and if we put the stakes anywhere else, the currents are so running that we will not get any fish in such parts, between the many fishing stakes existing now. Moreover, it is easy to realise that, between two fishing stakes which are profitable concerns, if an interloper puts fishing stakes, the matter may be brought to the notice of the authorities concerned, immediately, by the other stake owners on either sides of it. Under such circumstances, what now happens is that the Fishery Patrol staff, who have got a Fishery Regulation also, sometimes harass these poor fishermen, if some illegal gratification is not given them when demanded. This has been established as a *mamool*. Many cases have been brought to my notice, and I was asked to appear before the Magistrates in Courts for the last one or two years. On account of political work, I refused to undertake these defences of prosecutions of the Fishery Patrol staff. Even the other day, a person was arrested for fishing somewhere near Ramanturutti and taken to the Taluk Office here, only yesterday. This is the reason why I bring to the notice of the Government the action of the Fishery Patrol staff and the Revenue Inspectors. I think, there is a Fishery Firkah Revenue Inspector under the Cochin-Kanayannur Tahsildar with the same pay.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR (*Diwan Peishkar*).

Sir,

I oppose the motion. I am not going to remove the Patrol Staff at all.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

What I wish to bring to the notice of the Diwan Peishkar, particularly, is that I am not prepared—if he

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thinks it necessary to have this Fishing Patrol staff—to press this motion to a division and take the result. But I want all these facts to be brought to his notice, so that, in carrying on the administration in the coming year, he will have all the advantages of the information placed here. That is the only object in raising this discussion. (*Hear, hear.*) The argument that unauthorised stakes will crop up is an unsound one.

I am not going to bring to his notice that these fishing people are taxed twice. Now, it has been elicited that the small fishing boats alone have been untouched under the Canal Regulation. These poor fishermen, living from hand to mouth, having a precarious living in the open waters and risking their lives for their means of livelihood, cannot bear so much taxation, and these are the classes of people to whom our sympathies should go in an abundant measure and not our antipathies. If, in taking away fish from the open running streams like this, we have to tax them, as if these are private waters, take the taxes out of them. But let them not be molested in doing so. This tax can only be regarded as a *mamool*. I think it is also an unrighteous *mamool*, because we do not tax people who catch birds that fly in the air. But we tax persons who catch fish from the waters. This is the reason for my motion, and having said so much, I would respectfully move this motion to omit the Fishery Patrol staff, and sit down for the time being.

President.—Any member who seconds this motion ?

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

Sir

I second it; but, as the mover himself has expressed, if an assurance is coming from the officer responsible for the administration of the department, the permission of the House may be obtained to withdraw it.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR (*Diwan Peishkar*).

I can give the assurance required. I am thankful to the Hon ble Member for having brought to my notice

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the vagaries of the Fishery Patrol staff, and I shall make a careful enquiry into it. I assure this House that everything will be done and that no annoyance or high-handedness is caused to the poor fishermen whose interest I am bound to look to, and they will have no better friend than myself in this part of the Administration.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

In the face of the assurance, I withdraw the motion, if the Council will permit me to do so.

Mr. Salem's motion was allowed to be withdrawn, and so withdrawn.

Motion Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for T. A. by Rs. 500.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for T. A. by Rs. 5,000.

Mr. PAULO MAMPILLI (*Narakkal*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for T. A. by Rs. 5,000.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for Travelling Allowance under Land Revenue be reduced by Rs. 500. I suggest that this reduction be effected by reducing the Railway fare now allowed to first and second class officers.

I make this recommendation, not because I grudge the payment of liberal allowances to officers on tour, but because the payment of double first and second class Railway fares at the present rates contravenes the spirit of Article 279 of the Cochin Service Regulation, which lays it down as a fundamental principle that Travelling Allowance is not to be made a source of profit. Of the two fares allowed to superior grades of officers, one is to cover his own trainage, and the other, that of his servants and luggage. If one fare was found sufficient to cover the latter—as I am sure it did—before the fares were increased last year, it is much more than sufficient for the purpose now. When first and second

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class fares were raised last year, a corresponding increase was not made in the third class fare and the charge for luggage. First and second class fares were increased exactly by a hundred per cent, while third class fare was raised only by about 30 per cent, and the charge for luggage by even less. A half first, or second, class fare will now go almost the same way to cover the charge for servants and luggage that a full fare did before the fares were raised. Thus, the reduction that I recommend will not prove unfair to the officers concerned, as it will not render them out of pocket, while it is called for in justice to the tax-payer.

I do not anticipate any large savings on account of this reduction, but I press for it as a matter of principle. I would also request to be allowed to amend my motion by substituting Rs. 200 for Rs. 500. As only one first class and one second class officer in the department have to tour throughout the State, and as the activities of the rest are confined to their respective taluks, I anticipate only a saving of Rs. 200 a year.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

Sir, I second the motion. Cochin State is no bigger than some of the Districts of Madras. If you only compare our machinery to run the Government with theirs, the result will be most appalling. You, Sir, had been kind enough to inform us that it was a laborious task to cut down the figures of the budget amounts. In this T. A. affair it is easy. In this connection, I beg to bring to your notice that, as I second this, I don't propose to move a cut which I have tabled.

Mr. PAULO MAMPILLI (*Narakkal*).

Sir, I have also made a proposal to reduce the allotment under Travelling Allowance to Rs. 12,000; but, in view of the facts that have been brought to the notice of the Council by the mover of the motion, with your permission, I beg to withdraw my own proposal and to support the present motion of Mr. Achyuta Menon.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Sir, I want to support Mr. Achyuta Menon's proposal. I have also put down as one item that

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Travelling Allowance should be cut short by Rs. 11,000. I would support Mr. Achyuta Menon; and so I don't think, I have any necessity to move my motion. I think, the travelling allowance drawn by our officers is enormous. As I submitted sometime ago, the travelling allowance should not be made a source of profit, as it is only intended for merely covering the travelling expenses. They receive adequate pay, and therefore, only such amount need be granted, which will exactly cover their travelling expenses. I strongly support Mr. Achyuta Menon's motion.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR (*Diwan Peishkar*).

Sir, I explained this point very clearly, yesterday, and pointed out that our rules are in conformity with the rules now obtaining in Travancore, Mysore, the Madras Presidency and other places. Certainly, I have not the least objection towards increasing the travelling allowance of the subordinate officers. In this connection, what I want to point out is that there is a proposal to revise our Travelling Allowance rules so as to bring them into conformity with those of other places. The allotment of Rs. 20,000 provided for that may remain unreduced for the present, and to that extent, I would oppose the motion.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

The Madras Government did not go in for any serious reduction. But this one item it reduced to 1 3/5. This one item was reduced because it was very palpable.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR (*Diwan Peishkar*).

Sir, May I give an explanation? In Madras, they are paid Rs. 600 and Rs. 700 and double first class trainage, and that is the chief reason why it was stopped, to the best of my knowledge. No such thing was done in Travancore or Mysore. That is my information.

President.—Mr. Achyuta Menon, you will be able to know something from the Statement of the Finance Member. The revision of the rules will be taken up for consideration.

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Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

On that assurance, Sir, I am prepared to withdraw my motion, if the Council permits. The question of expenditure as a whole will have to be taken up generally.

President.—But the revision of these rules, in the light of what is being done elsewhere, in British India and Travancore, will have to be taken up soon.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

On the assurance of the Government that the question of the revision of the Travelling Allowance rates will be taken up in due course, I withdraw my motion, if the Council permits.

The House allowed the cut to be withdrawn. Permission was also given to Messrs. Eachara Menon, Paulo Mampilli and M. K. Raman to withdraw their motions.

Motion No. 5.

Mr. PAULO MAMPILLI (*Narakkal*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for Lighting of caution posts by Rs. 2,000.

Mr. President, my object in putting forth this motion is to draw the attention of the Diwan Peishkar to the most unsatisfactory way in which the work was being attended to. But I had an occasion to speak to him about this matter, and he gave me an assurance that he will see that every pie that is allotted for this purpose will be usefully spent, and on that assurance and with the permission of the Council, I withdraw.

Mr. Paulo Mampilli was allowed to withdraw his motion.

Motion No. 6.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,25,300 under Land Revenue by one rupee.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph being absent, his motion was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Motion No. 7.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,35,300 for Land Revenue by Rs. 11,000.

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President.—

Mr. M. K. Raman, I take it that you withdraw the motion.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Yes, Sir.

The motion was, by leave withdrawn, and the grant for Demand No. I was allowed by the House.

DEMAND II—Agriculture and Panchayats.

Motion No. 8.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 81,437 for Agriculture by Rs. 45,678.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

Sir, Regarding the reduction of Rs. 45,678, for which I have claimed, out of the allotment Rs. 81,437 for Agriculture, I shall proceed with my reasons. I have heard all that the Head of the Agriculture, Panchayats and Veterinary Departments said in justification of his facts and the demand made by him for the allotment in the current year's budget. But I am sorry I am not the least convinced of the inevitable need for altering the reduction which I have already proposed. This House will remember all that I said in detail about the most unsatisfactory way in which this most useful department has been worked, in a manner of the blind leading the blind ; and I do not wish to take more of the valuable time of this House in reiterating the same. Suffice it to say that a thorough overhauling of the department and the methods of its work in a manner suited to the conditions in Cochin is urgently called for at a less cost to the State. The amount which I ask the House to reduce is only that which exceeds the receipts of the Farm, Cocoanut plantions, &c.

The expenses on Farm Operations—Rs. this
Maintenance of Gardens—Rs. 2,18,740. enta-
Station—Rs.4,034, Cattle-breeding and Se as coun-
depots—Rs. 640, thus make a total of R question of
receipts from the above have be lar subjects,
Rs. 16,900. The net loss on account, th for funds for
which I have asked to be cut, when ers; and there-
deficit one. d particularly

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